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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/071,628 Confirmation No. 2337
Applicant : Hiroshi Abe
Filed : February 8, 2002
Title : SMALL APPARATUS FOR DISPENSING CIRCULAR PLATE
OBJECTS
TC/A.U. : 3653
Examiner : Mark J. Beauchaine
Docket No. : 1800.00009
Customer No. : 29747

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**SUPPLEMENTAL REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION
BY THE INVENTORS**

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My mailing address and citizenship are as stated below.

1. I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is described and claimed in said Patent No. 6,099,402, issued on August 8, 2000, for which a reissue patent is sought on the above-identified invention the specification of which was filed on February 8, 2002 as reissue Application No. 10/071,628 and was amended on August 13, 2003.

2. I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

3. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56.

4. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. ' 119(a)-(d) or (f) ' 365(b) of the foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or ' 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, any foreign application for

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patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date
9-287541	Japan	09/12/1997
9-291470	Japan	09/18/1997
9-370005	Japan	12/19/1997

8. I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agents of the law firm Greenberg Traurig (Customer No. 29747) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

R. Richard Costello (Reg. No. 51,583)
Edward J. Quirk (Reg. No. 23,018)

Rob L. Phillips (Reg. No. 40,305)

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

Rob L. Phillips at 702-792-3773

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO :

Customer No. 29747
Greenberg Traurig
3773 Howard Hughes Parkway
Suite 500 North
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

5. All errors which are being corrected in this reissue application up to the time of filing of this oath/declaration arose without any deceptive intention.

6. I believe the original patent to be wholly or partly inoperative or invalid by reason of claiming less than I had the right to claim in the patent. The common central-axis alignment is unique over the prior art cited and is worthy of patent protection.

The functional elements of the claims are a disc means, means for rotating said disc means, gear means and drive means having a common central-axis line. The original patent claims do not recite the common central-axis alignment disclosed in the specification.

A. Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes:

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The patent as issued contained 7 claims. All of these claims are pending in the application; none have been canceled. In addition, the application as filed contains new claims 8-11. One amendment has been made with respect to claims 1 through 7 which were in the original patent. This amendment was filed on August 13, 2003 to overcome a section 112 rejection in line 60. Amended claim 1 is shown below.

In addition, there are no issues with respect to support in the specification for the new claims. Nonetheless, a copy of the Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes is attached hereto, with notations adjacent to each claim number indicating the location in the original patent of support for the claim.

B. Preliminary Statement

The error has been corrected by adding new claims 8-11 which recite the central axis line and magnetic cover disc attachment means which were not recited in original claims 1-7. The patentee believes the common central-axis alignment is unique over the prior art cited and worthy of patent protection. Similarly, the patentee believes the magnetic cover disc attachment means is unique over the prior art and worthy of patent protection. Both the central-axis alignment and the magnetic cover disc attachment means are supported in the original specification.

Amended claim 1 recites as follows:

1. A discharge apparatus for disc bodies comprising;
a fixed substrate;

a disc spaced from said substrate a distance related to the thickness of said disc bodies, said disc including at least one opening having a diameter adapted to receive a disc body;

means for rotating the disc to accent disc bodies in said opening and said space for discharge thereof, said rotating means including a shaft coupled between said disc and means for rotating the shaft for axial movement thereof and [[said]] adjusting means including an elevation body disposed about the shaft and at one end engaging the disc and at the other end including a plurality of axially extending projections and an operation

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body including a plurality of projections adapted to engage the projections on said elevation body, engagement of said projections displacing said disc to adjust said space.

Original claims 2-7 recite as follows:

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein, relative to said shaft, said projections on said elevation body and said operation body are arranged annularly and are adapted to, in response to rotation of said operation body, engage to displace said disc to adjust said space.
3. A discharge apparatus for disc bodies comprising;
a fixed substrate;
a disc spaced from said substrate a distance related to the thickness of said disc bodies, said disc including a main disc having coupled to one face thereof a cover disc, each including bores adapted to register to define at least one opening, said disc bodies accepted through said cover disc into said opening, said main disc including at least one arm disposed in said space and adapted to engage a disc body in said space for discharge thereof, said main and cover discs are coupled by one of said discs including a ferromagnetic element and the other including a magnetic element;
means for rotating the disc to accept disc bodies in said opening and said space for discharge thereof; and
means for adjusting said space to accept disc bodies of differing thicknesses.
4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said cover disc includes a protruding pin adapted to stir said disc bodies.

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5. A discharge apparatus for disc bodies comprising;
- a fixed substrate;
 - a disc spaced from said substrate a distance related to the thickness of said disc bodies, said disc including at least one opening having a diameter adapted to receive a disc body;
 - a shaft coupled between said disc and means for rotating the shaft for axial movement thereof to space said disc relative to said substrate, rotation of said disc to accept disc bodies in said opening and said space for discharge thereof;
 - an elevation body disposed about the shaft and at one end engaging the disc and at the other end including a plurality of axially extending projections; and
 - an operation body including a plurality of projections adapted to engage the projections on said elevation body, engagement of said projections displacing said disc to adjust said space to accept disc bodies of differing thicknesses.
6. The apparatus of claim 5 including a stopper to retain said shaft to said substrate.
7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said elevation body and operation body projections have a saw-tooth configuration.

The new independent claims recite as follows:

8. An apparatus for dispensing disc bodies comprising;
- disc means for dispensing circular disc bodies one by one;
 - means for rotating said disc means;
 - planet gear means having a central axis line common with a central axis line of said means for rotating said disc means; and

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driving means having a central axis line common with the central axis line of said planet gear means.

11. A dispensing apparatus for the disc bodies comprising:

main disc means which equips a rotating shaft for dispensing the disc body at a center section, said disc means having a through-hole for containing the disc body at a perimeter part and an arm for extruding the disc body at a fringe of an under surface;

a cover disc having a size dependent on a perimeter size of the disc body, said cover equipped with a penetration tube for insertion through said through-hole; and

said disc means fixed to said cover disc by means of a magnet.

As discussed below, the emphasized language noted in new claims 8 and 11 above corrects the error in the original application.

Claims 1, 2, and 6 of the original patent application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,711,704 (the '704 Patent) to Hughes teaches a coin storage and dispensing apparatus. However, the original rejected claims did not recite the common central-axis line present in the apparatus. The common central-axis limitation is present in claims 8-10.

New claim 11 includes a cover disc attachment means consisting of a magnet. The cover disc and disc means combination was originally declared obvious over Hughes et al. in view of Henderickson et al. However, the cited references did not suggest or teach the use of a magnet to attach the cover disc to the disc means. The Examiner indicated that the magnetic attachment means including other limitations of the base claim and intervening claims was allowable subject matter. New claim 11 recites the magnetic attachment means in combination with the additional limitations.

No reference known to applicant discloses an apparatus for dispensing circular plates having a common central-axis line between the disc means, rotating means, gear means and drive means or a magnetic cover disc attachment means.

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C. Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes:

CLAIM	STATUS	SUPPORT IN DISCLOSURE FOR CHANGES
1	Pending	
2	Pending	
3	Pending	
4	Pending	
5	Pending	
6	Pending	
7	Pending	
8	New	Column 2, lines 22-25; Column 4, lines 50-57; and Figs. 1, 2 and 3
9	New	Column 3, lines 53-55
10	New	Column 3, lines 23-25; and Figs. 3, 4A and 4B
11	New	Column 5, lines 19-60; and Figs. 6, 7, 8A and 8B

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.

Hiroshi Abe
3-7, Kobaba 1-chome,
Iwatsuki-shi, Saitama, JAPAN
Citizenship: Japan

Hiroshi Abe January 30, 2006
Signature Date

Noboru Ichihara
37, Kobaba 1-chome,
Iwatsuki-shi, Saitama, JAPAN
Citizenship: Japap

Noboru Ichihara Jan. 27, 2006
Signature Date